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Indirect Revolution?

Education . . . is a dangerous drug for dictators. The Soviet educational processes, even though tied in with much Marxist indoctrination, and characterized by great emphasis on the physical as opposed to the political sciences, has taught the people to think and question.

The above is an excerpt from an address made recently in Cincinnati by Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency and a brother to our secretary of state, John Foster.

Principal task of the CIA Dulles is to gather information concerning the potentialities—economic and military—of both prospective allies and enemies, evaluate it, and present his conclusions to the President and the National Security Council.

In a public address, naturally, Mr. Dulles must talk in the most indefinite kind of generalities. And yet even a generality from Mr. Dulles can be more pertinent than detailed claims from persons less fully informed.

The CIA director didn't discount claims of Soviet advances, particularly in the realm of heavy industry. By copying Western methods, the Russians have been able to telescope a couple of centuries of Western industrial development into a few decades.

But in order to duplicate the West, Moscow has had to develop a managerial middle class—a growing group with a vested interest in peaceful progress, a group that had to be educated beyond the point of blind faith in government.

It is this growing body of Russians, apparently, in which Mr. Dulles is willing to place at least a little confidence; or perhaps it's only a hope that the new middle class will gain political stature sufficient to soften the policies and aims of the professional politicians in the Kremlin. It may not come through direct action, but rather through indirection in a demand that a larger share of the nation's available wealth be devoted to a higher standard of living instead of preparations for war.

Not many Americans are going to buy this theory right off. We don't think they should. But it's a possibility worth pondering and a development that might be encouraged in our foreign policy.

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